THE REPLY

Of the

STATES GENERALL

Of the

UNITED PROVINCES

Of the Low Countrys,

To

the LETTER

Of the

KING of GREAT BRITTAIN.

Anno 1673.

To

The King of Great Brittain

the $\frac{2}{12}$ *of Decemb.* 1673.

SIR,

WHat ever may have induced your Majesty to write us the Letter, which the Trumpetter we had sent you hath delivered us from your Majesty dated the $\frac{7}{17}$ Novemb., we do think ourselves bound to return you our thanks, for the honour you have been pleased to do us; But we cann't but let you know, at the same time, how much we are troubled to see your Majesty so prepossess'd against us, and that those Ministers, whom you most trust, have hitherto had the skill to influence your Majesty so far as we see they have done, by persuading you to aver so many things, which they suppos'd were out of your Majesty's memory, and which they know in their own consciences to be contrary to all truth.

For this reason, SIR, we do not think fitt to give a particular answer to all the heads of the Letter, your Majesty hath written to us, that we may not give a new occasion to those that have so possess'd your Majesty, to exasperate you further: But referring ourselves to the Deduction, which we are necessitated to set forth in answer to the *Manifest*, which was published in your Majesty's Name, we shall satisfy ourselves with declaring here unto your Majesty, that as we have alledg'd nothing in the Letter we had written to your Majesty, whereof

we have not in our hands authentick and undenyable proofs, ſo we ſhall be ready at all times to produce them before your Majeſty, whenſoever you will be pleaſed to give us a fitter opportunity for it. And withall ſince your Majeſty (ſuppoſing that what information you had received from your Miniſters was more faithfull,) hath complained to your Parliament of our obſtinate averſeneſſe to Peace, and that the *Houſe of Commons* according to their wonted prudence, have been pleaſed to ſuſpend their judgement therein, and to give us thereby an occaſion to lay our innocence more open, and to give more publique and convincing proofs of the ſincerity of our intentions; We have thought it neceſſary to add, that to let your Majeſty, and all your Kingdom ſee, that we do not affect to ſpeak of Peace (as is layd to our charge) without really deſiring the ſame, and that we are farr from entrenching ourſelves within generall words, without coming to any particular overtures, We are ready to renew with your Majeſty the Treaty which you concluded with us at *Breda* in the year 1667, and to explain the 19. Article concerning the Flagg, in ſuch a manner as may prevent any further diſpute for the future, and that may regulate and ſettle the practice thereof without any ambiguity. And being your Majeſty judged the ſaid Treaty ſo juſt and ſo equitable, that for ſome years after we received more proofs of your Majeſty's friendship, and you entered with us into ſtricter Alliances than ever, we do propoſe the ſame as the moſt ſolid foundation of a firme and durable Peace, and we hope your Majeſty will not refuſe to return to your former amity with us, upon the ſame termes which you have heretofore approved of; the rather becauſe the intereſt of the *Proteſtant Religion*, and many other reſpects relating to the good of both Nations, ought to be a ſtrong argument on both ſides to unite us again the ſooner. Moreover becauſe ſome have endeavoured

ed to perſuade your Majeſty that we have violated our Treatyes, and committed ſeverall injuſtices for which ſatisfaction is demanded, we are alſo ready to ſend forthwith our Embaſſadors to your Majeſty, to give you a more faithfull account of the truth than you have received from our Ennemies, & to examine in your preſence all the infractions that are layd to our charge, with a ſolemn promiſe to repair and give ſatisfaction, for all the wrongs or injuries, which either your Majeſty or your Subjects, may have received from us or from our Officers, ſince the aforeſaid Treaty of *Breda* till the beginning of this War.

And to the end that this inquiry may not retard the concluſion of a Peace which we ſo earneſtly deſire, and which is ſo neceſſary for the good of all Chriſtendom; We do offer to your Majeſty, for a greater ſecurity, the *Guarantie* of our Allyes for the exact and punctuall performance of the promiſe we make here, and which we are willing to have inſerted in the Treaty, which ſhall be concluded, to make the ſame ſo much the more authentick.

Laſtly, to demonſtrate to your Majeſty how farr we value your friendſhip; We do profer you likewiſe, to reſtore the *New Netherlands*, with any other Place or Colony, our armes may have conquered during this Warr; not doubting but that your Majeſty will not refuſe reciprocally to engage, to reſtore to us what Territoryes or Forts your Majeſty may have conquerred.

But becauſe your Majeſty ſeemeth above all to complain, that we do highly offend you, by propoſing to your Majeſty to leave your Allyes, to whom you have promiſed not to treat ſeparately, whileſt we do eſtablish it for a fundamental point, that we cann't break the word we have given ours, without wronging our honour, as if your Majeſty was to value yours leſs; We beſeech your Majeſty to conſider, there is a vaſt difference between your engagements & ours, as well as in the carriage of thoſe we are re-

ſpectively allyed with: And your Majeſty may with as much Juſtice as glory quench a fire, which hath already ſpred it ſelf much further than you did think at firſt; whereas we could not forſake our Allyes, without being guilty of the greateſt ingratitude, and without deſtroying Europe by deſtroying ourſelves. When your Majeſty did at firſt joyn with our Ennemies, you did ſeem to intend only to bring our Commonwealth low; But now the War is grown a generall one; and the *Spanish Netherlands* for the preſervation of which your Majeſty hath alwayes appeared ſo zealous, are no leſs concerned in it than our ſelves, as well as the greateſt part of the Empire.

Beſides, your Majeſty hath ſo much the leſs reaſon to continue in your former Alliance, ſince your Allyes themſelves have altered the nature of this War, and have forced our friends to declare ſo much the ſooner in our behalf, whileſt neither his Imperiall Majeſty nor the moſt Serene King of Spain, could bear no longer with the hoſtilityes the French committed every day in all the Low Countrys, and in ſeverall Provinces of the Empire, where they had already maſtered an Electorall Town. But not to enter into theſe particulars, and laying aſide ſeverall other arguments of the ſame kind, your Majeſty, SIR, hath but to much cauſe to forſake an Allye that hath ſought nothing in this Warr but his own private advantage, and who in the moſt important occaſions hath taken care of nothing leſs than of your Majeſtys concerns, not to ſay worſe: And if your Majeſty do ſtill doubt the truth of it, let not your Majeſty relye upon what thoſe that are Friends to France do tell you; But be pleaſed duely to examine what paſs'd at Utrecht the laſt year between the French Miniſters and our Deputys, and you'l ſee plainly how upright the carriage of your Allyes hath been. To be convinced of it, it is even ſufficient to read the Propoſalls which France made then to us, wherein there is not the leaſt word relating to your Majeſty

jesty; and whileſt our other Deputys were kept at Hampton-court without granting them any Audience, we were preſs'd hard at Utrecht to agree upon, and conclude a Treaty without your Majeſty's participation: And to quicken us the more, we were told that unleſs we granted within five dayes what was then demanded of us, they would afterwards raiſe their demands higher. We might add to this ſeverall other overtures which have ſince been made to us, wherein as little care was taken of your Majeſty: But by reaſon theſe have been leſs publique how reall ſoever they were, we ſhall not inſiſt upon them, and will only for a finall proof of the obligations your Allyes have laid upon your Majeſty, put you in mind of what hath paſs'd in the Sea-fights; whereof we'l have no other witneſſes, and appeal to no other Judges, but thoſe that have had the command of your Majeſty's Fleets, with the reſt of the Officers and Seamen. But as for us, ſeeing our Allyes have carryed themſelves in a manner ſo different; that they have laid upon us ſuch Obligations as we cannot ſufficiently expreſſe; that withall we are entered with them into this Alliance out of an unavoidable neceſſity, & for the good of all Europe; And laſtly (as we have ſaid it before) that we cannot leave them without undoing ourſelves, and expoſing to an eminent danger the ſafety of Chriſtendom; Your Majeſty ought not to wonder if we cannot conſent to break our word to them, nor take it ill, if we endeavour to perſuade your Majeſty to follow your true intereſt, and to take a reſolution which would be as generous and as juſt, as it would prove beneficiall to your Kingdoms, and to your Majeſty's Neighbours.

To which we may add, that a ſeparate Treaty is ſo much the more neceſſary and warrantable, by reaſon of the abſolute ſtop which is put to the Conferences at Collen, by the obſtinate denyal the French have made, ſome months ſince, to grant the neceſſary Paſſes to the Miniſters of the Duke of Lorraine (one of

of our Allyes) and to admit him a Principall in the Negotiation of Peace.

This, SIR, is what we have thought fit both to repreſent, and to offer unto your Majeſty, in anſwer to what was moſt eſſentiall in your Letter. And we conceive hopes that if your Majeſty will never ſo little reflect upon the ſame, you will own, that nothing more can in juſtice be demanded of us; Neither can we perſuade ourſelves that your Majeſty will without need, as well as without advantage, countenance any longer the armes of the French not only againſt us, but alſo againſt ſome other of your ancienteſt Allyes, who are engaged to run the ſame fortune with us; And to endanger ſtill both all Europe and the Proteſtant Religion. We'l expect with great impatience your Majeſty's reſolution, upon which the reſt and the proſperity of ſo many Nations doth depend. In the mean time we pray God,

SIR,

To crown your Majeſty's Reign with felicity, and to bleſs your Royall Perſon with health and long life. At the Hague the 19. *of December* 1673.

Your Majeſty's moſt humble Servants,

The States Generall of the United Provinces of the Low Countreys,

GASP. FAGEL.

By Command of the aboveſaid,

H. FAGEL.

EXTRACT,

Uyt 't Regiſter der Reſolutien van de Hoogh Mogende Heeren Staten Generael der Vereenighde Nederlanden.

Mercurij den 24 Julij 1658.

SYnde ter Vergaderinge over woogen den inhouden vande Brieven vande Directeurs over den Levantſchen handel / ende navigatie inde Middelantſche Zee / hier bevoorens ontfangen / onder anderen raeckende de compoztementen vande Conſuls vande Nederlantſche Natie in 't generael / Te weten in alle de plaetſen van Spaignen / Vranckrijck / Italien / en

aen de gheheele Middelantsche Zee (uytgesondert alleen het Turcx ghebiet) residerende / ende de Reglementen dienthalven ghepropjecteert. Is naer deliberatie goet ghevonden ende verstaen / mits desen te arresteren ende vast te stellen / de hier naervolgende poincten ende Articulen / om te dienen voor een generael Reglement / naer den inhout van 't welcke hun de Consuls inde voor-verhaelde plaetsen in Chrijstenrijck sullen hebben te gedragen / soo ten regarde vande rechten by de selve te genieten / als anderssints / Te weten:

Eerstelijck / Dat alle de Consulaet Rechten vande voorsz Consuls / in alle de plaetsen voornoemt / ende alomme gereguleert sullen werden op Realen van Achten / zijnde de selve door de gantsche Middelandtsche Zee ganghbaer / ende over den prijs ende valeur van de welcke geen disputen konnen vallen.

Ten tweeden / Dat de Consuls niet meer voor haer recht en sullen mogen trecken / gelijck hun wel exprelijck verboden wert mits desen / als vier / ofte ten hoochsten vijf Realen van achten / naer advenant de groote van yeder Schip / in hun respective districten komende te arriveren / mitsgaders last te breecken / ofte aldaer ladinge in te nemen / sonder dat de Schepen alleenlick daer komende om water te halen / ofte anderssints ergens in gehouden sullen wesen.

Ten derden / Dat de ghesepde Consuls haer geen authoritept / ofte eenige Jurisdictie sullen hebben aen te matigen / ofte poogen te exerceren / over de persoonen vande Cooplupden / ofte der selver effecten.

Ende ten vierden / In cas het mochte ghebeuren dat de Consuls hun voor de Schippers lieten gebruycken / ende employeren in eenige extraordinaris besoignes / 't zy in het bevorderen ende belepden van eenige Processen / bestissen van

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Eerſtelijck / dat alle de Conſulaet Rechten vande voorſz Conſuls/ in alle de plaetſen voornoemt/ ende alomme gereguleert ſullen werden op Realen van Achten/ zijnde de ſelve door de gantſche Middelandtſche Zee ganghbaer / ende over den prijs ende valeur van de welcke geen diſputen konnen vallen.

Ten tweeden/ Dat de Conſuls niet meer voor haer recht en ſullen mogen trecken / ghelijck hun wel exprelijck verboden wert midts deſen/ als vier/ ofte ten hooghſten vijf Realen van achten / naer advenant de groote van peder Schip/ in hun reſpective diſtricten komende te arriveren / midtſgaders laſt te breecken/ofte aldaer ladinge in te nemen/ſonder dat de Schepen alleenlick daer komende om water te halen / ofte anderſints/ergens in gehouden ſullen weſen.

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Accordeert met 't voorſz Regiſter.

Ende geteeckent /

N. Ruyſch.

IN 'sGRAVEN-HAGE,
By de Weduwe, ende Erfgenamen van wylen Hillebrandt Jacobſz van Wouw, Ordinaris Druckers vande Hoogh Mog: Heeren Staten Generael der Vereenighde Nederlanden. Anno 1658.

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